



University Council

April 11, 2025

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2024-2025

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Undergraduate Student Representative – Ella Colker

Graduate Student Representative – William Walker

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the Mary Frances Early College of Education to offer the existing major in Social Studies Education (M.Ed.) online will be an agenda item for the April 18, 2025, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Susan Sanchez, Chair

cc: Provost S. Jack Hu

Dr. Marisa Pagnattaro

PROPOSAL FOR AN ONLINE PROGRAM

Date: February 10, 2025

College/School: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department/Division: Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies Education

Program (Major and Degree): Social Studies Education (M.Ed.)

Will any approved areas of emphasis be offered under this major? No

Proposed Effective Date: Spring 2026

1. Needs Assessment

The University of Georgia offers a B.S.Ed. program in Social Studies Education. In addition, the department offers a Double Dawgs pathway which the majority of B.S.Ed. students enroll in. Upon completing the B.S.Ed., most students begin their teaching careers and complete the remainder of their M.Ed. on a part-time basis. Because the degree is not currently available online, students who teach outside of the Athens area are burdened not only with the adjustments that accompany first years of a teaching career, but also have to drive sometimes long distances to complete their advanced degree. As indicated in the graphic below, since beginning the Double Dawg pathway, enrollment in the M.Ed. program has been significantly higher, with the vast majority of students being enrolled in the Double Dawgs pathway.

An online M.Ed. program would expand the program's reach and ability to attract non-local students. A high percentage of inquiries received about the M.Ed. program begin with whether or not it is an online program. This degree also serves as an advanced credential upgrade for currently practicing teachers in Georgia.

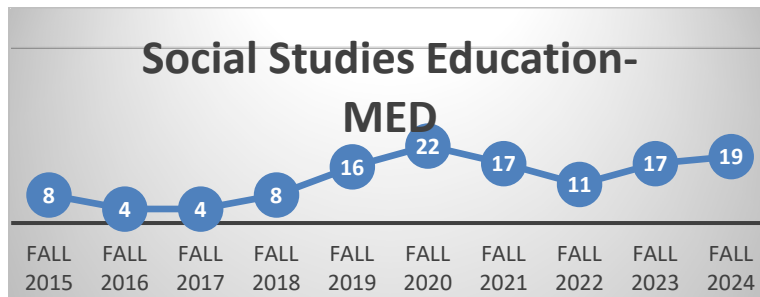


Figure 1. Enrollment in Social Studies Education (M.Ed.)

Past and current students seek the University of Georgia's nationally-ranked degree programs (U.S. News and World Report Secondary Curriculum ranking of 10th in the country) because of the academic rigor, professionalism, and student-centered mission of the University of Georgia. An online M.Ed. in Social Studies Education would broaden the program's network of school partnerships across the state, while simultaneously providing engaging opportunities for innovative teaching, field research, and scholarship.

2. Admission Requirements

All requirements for admission to the proposed online M.Ed. in Social Studies Education will be the same as those for the existing on-campus program. Specifically, all applicants will:

- Have earned, or will have earned, a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution before the date of enrollment at the University of Georgia.
- Have a minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0 for all courses taken.

- Have scored a minimum of 20 points each on the Speaking and Writing sections of the TOEFL with an overall minimum score of 80 [for international applicants]. Test scores must be within 2 years from the date of application.
- Submit a statement of purpose and resume/CV.
- Provide three letters of recommendation. [This requirement is waived if a Double Dawgs applicant.]

3. Program Content

The curriculum will be the same as it is for the on-campus M.Ed. program in Social Studies. The criteria for electives or substitutions for specific requirements will be equivalent online. In the last semester of the M.Ed. program, students complete a comprehensive exam.

Required Courses (9 hours)

ESOC 6990E, Research Seminar in Social Studies Education (3 hours)
 ESOC 7050E, Problems of Teaching Secondary Social Studies (3 hours)
 ESOC 7080E, Curriculum Planning in Social Sciences (3 hours)

Electives (27 hours)

Courses in:

Dual Language Learners (LLED)
 Educational Law (EDAP)
 Educational Psychology (EPSY)
 Educational Research (ERSH)
 Educational Technology (EDIT)
 Gifted Education (EPSY)
 Language and Literacy Education (LLED)
 Reading Education (LLED)
 Social Studies Education (ESOC)

Total = 36 hours

4. Student Support Services

Program faculty will provide online advising. Each online M.Ed. student will be assigned a faculty advisor and students will meet regularly with that advisor through the use of virtual meeting platforms. Enrolled students will have access to technology services and supports offered through the Office of Instructional Technology housed within the college. The Mary Frances Early College of Education Office of Academic Programs will provide resources to assist online M.Ed. students with career development. All enrolled students will have access to UGA's Office of Financial Aid and Student Care and Outreach. Students with documented disabilities can register and be assigned a counselor with the Disability Resource Center. All services available to face-to-face students will be made available to students enrolled in the online program. University student support services (CAPS, libraries, career center, etc.) are communicated and shared with all students.

5. Resident Requirements

Residence requirements will be identical to those established for the authorized degree program.

6. Program Management

The Social Studies Assistant Graduate Program Coordinator, with the support of the staff-level Program Coordinator, will serve to maintain program processes and procedures. Additionally, Social Studies Education faculty serving as advisors to students in the online program will provide support for program maintenance. Social Studies Education faculty who are serving as instructors of online course offerings will maintain curricular and instructional quality. Monthly program meetings will allow faculty to collaborate and continuously evaluate program needs. An annual review of program Student Learning Objectives will allow faculty to further assess student success and program effectiveness.

The deadline for applying to the online M.Ed. in Social Studies Education is March 1st, and students will matriculate in the Summer or Fall semesters only. The duration of the 36-credit hour program will vary. Double Dawg students will have completed 12 of 36 required hours during their undergraduate programs and

will take approximately 3 semesters to complete the program. Students completing the full 36-hour program will likely take 3-5 semesters to complete the program. The anticipated start semester is Fall 2026.

7. Library and Laboratory Resources

Online UGA library resources already exist that are adequate to support this program. No laboratory resources are needed.

8. Budget

The online M.Ed. in Social Studies Education will mirror the existing on-campus program. Funds will be requested for the development of the online degree program through the university's initiative to develop high-demand graduate programs. Current program faculty will lead courses as part of their designated teaching loads. Additionally, almost all of these courses already have an online variant that has been constructed given experience in teaching during the pandemic. Part-time instructors may be required, dependent upon course enrollment and stipulations across various faculty teaching assignments. The proposed program will employ current library resources and does not anticipate additional fees in the form of library, laboratory, or other specialized facility resource requirements. The faculty do not anticipate any startup costs, special costs for the completion of the first cycle of students, or any additional costs associated with future cycles of students. Therefore, the faculty submit this proposal with a \$0 budget.

9. Program Costs Assessed to Students

Costs for completion of the online M.Ed. in Social Studies Education are consistent with the university's established fee structure.

10. E-Rate

E-Rate resources are not requested for this proposed program.

Documentation of Approval and Notification

Proposal: Proposal to offer the existing major in Social Studies Education (M.Ed.) online

College: Mary Frances Early College of Education

Department: Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies Education

Proposed Effective Term: Spring 2026

School/College:

- Head of the Department of Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies Education, Dr. Roger Hill, 4/8/2025
- Mary Frances Early College of Education Associate Dean, Dr. Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett, 3/25/2025
- Graduate School Associate Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 4/9/2025